



PRESS RELEASE



Canadian Mortgage News - National Archive 2003

Mountainview Gives Seniors Independence, Support

KELOWNA, British Columbia, May 20, 2003 — Seniors with low to moderate incomes have more housing and care options thanks to today's opening of the Good Samaritan Society Mountainview Village, an independent living development with support services. This project combines contributions from the federal and provincial governments under the Canada-British Columbia Affordable Housing Agreement, as well as from the Interior Health Authority and the Good Samaritan Society.



Ribbon-cutting: left to right: Kelowna Mayor Walter Gray; Dr. Archie Marzolf, Board Chair, Good Samaritan Society; Alan Dolman, Board Chair, Interior Health; Senator Ross Fitzpatrick; Irene Sikora, Mountainview Village tenant; Katherine Whittred, Minister of State for Intermediate, Long Term and Home Care; Sindi Hawkins, MLA for Kelowna-Mission; Mountainview Village tenant (unidentified).

Photo Insert - Minister of State for Intermediate, Long Term and Home Care Katherine Whittred and Senator Ross Fitzpatrick unveil a plaque to celebrate the official opening of the Good Samaritan Society Mountainview Village, a 105-unit independent living development with support services in Kelowna. The development was funded in part by the federal and provincial governments through the Canada-British Columbia Affordable Housing Agreement.

"The Government of Canada, working in partnership with the provincial government and other groups, is striving to bring quality affordable housing to the people of British Columbia", said Senator Ross Fitzpatrick on behalf of Steven Mahoney, Secretary of State (Selected Crown Corporations). "Successes like Kelowna's Mountainview Village are key to developing strong communities, not just here in B.C., but throughout Canada."

Canadian Mortgage News - Mountainview Gives Seniors Independence, Support

"As part of our New Era commitment, the provincial government is providing 5,000 new intermediate and long-term-care beds by 2006, in partnership with the non-profit and private sectors", said Katherine Whittred, Minister of State for Intermediate, Long Term and Home Care. Since June 2001, the province has opened 655 new independent-living units with support services for seniors and people with disabilities and 811 residential care beds, across B.C.

"Seniors have told us they want to live in an environment that balances their desire for independence and privacy with ready access to support and personal care services", said George Abbott, Minister for Community, Aboriginal and Women's Services. "Mountainview Village provides quality, affordable housing and personal care to help seniors maintain their independence as they age in their communities."

The 105-unit development offers 37 wheelchair-accessible apartments with support services for seniors. Low-income seniors with health needs will be able to rent these units for 30 per cent of their annual income and pay additional fees for meals and hospitality services. The remaining 68 units are private-market, life-lease apartments. Seniors occupying these units can opt to purchase support services.

"Independent living with support services is just one of the steps we are taking at Interior Health to provide better care for seniors for this generation and the next", said Alan Dolman, board chair of Interior Health. "It helps fill the gap between care at home and care in a residential-care facility."

"We appreciate the opportunity given to us by the governments of Canada and British Columbia, and Interior Health, to develop this exciting and innovative project — our first in B.C. — and are delighted that it has come to fruition", said Phil Gaudet, president and CEO of the Good Samaritan Society.

Under the Canada-British Columbia Affordable Housing Agreement, the Government of Canada, through Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, will contribute \$88.7 million over the five years towards affordable housing in this province. The provincial government, through BC Housing, will provide \$29.7 million annually to subsidize the costs of units built under this agreement as part of a larger strategy to provide a range of housing options for vulnerable British Columbians. To date, 1,163 housing units have been completed under the agreement and 602 units are in various stages of construction or development.

This news release is available at www.bchousing.org online.

Contact:

Susan Thom

Director, Corporate Communications
BC Housing
604 439-4715
604 230-1301 (cell.)

Val Rosenthal

Communications
CMHC
604 737-4123

A brief backgrounder on the Mountainview project is attached.

Backgrounder

The Good Samaritan Society is a non-profit organization created in 1949 to provide support services and care for people, regardless of race or religious belief, who are frail or have chronic illnesses or disabilities. The society has a 50-year history of providing continuing care, assisted living and other specialized health-care services and facilities. The organization is one of the largest voluntary continuing-care providers in Canada, managing 14 seniors' developments in Alberta and B.C.

Mountainview Village Facts

Location: 1540 KLO Road, Kelowna

Number of units: 105

This includes:

- 37 wheelchair-accessible apartments for seniors, with support including meals, housekeeping and laundry services and 24-hour emergency response. Low-income seniors with health needs can rent these units for 30 per cent of their annual income and pay an additional fee for meals and hospitality services.
- 68 units are private-market, life-lease apartments. Seniors occupying these units can opt to purchase support services.

The Good Samaritan Society manages the development and owns the land.

Federal and provincial contributions

CMHC contributed \$555,000 toward the capital costs of this project.

The provincial government, through BC Housing, will provide approximately \$4 million in operating subsidies to the society over the next 35 years.

The Interior Health Authority will provide an annual operating grant of \$400,000 to provide personal care services to tenants.